

# Human Relations News

from the

## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

February

BROTHERHOOD MONTH EDITION

1959

### New Commissioners Attend First Regular Meeting

Mayor Leo P. Carlin recently appointed five new members of the Commission to replace those whose terms had expired or who had resigned. They attended their first regular meeting on the night of January 28 and were introduced to the present members and representatives of the Technical Advisory Committee.

The Commission, feeling that our readers would like to learn more about our new members, is including below a brief summary of the interests and activities of our five new members.

Mrs. MARY B. BURCH was a member of the Newark Board of Education and is currently the director of Newark's largest Negro youth organization, "The Leaguers, Inc." She is an active member on the boards of the Citizens Association on Correction of the State of N. J.; New Jersey Citizens Committee for the Public Schools; Fuld Neighborhood House and the Urban League of Essex County.

JOHN CAMILL is the past chairman of the Joint Council of the Tenant Associations in the City of Newark; is employed as a letter-carrier; and is a secretary of the Irish-American Club of North Newark. He has six children, ranging in age from seven to twenty.

JOHN M. MARKS is a Sergeant in the Newark Police Department and serves as an Instructor at the Police Academy. He is currently attending night classes to complete his academic education at Seton Hall University. The past Commander of the police post of the Veter-

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### MAYOR CARLIN HOST TO CITY FOR BROTHERHOOD FILM SHOWING ON FEB. 16

Mayor Leo P. Carlin will be host to the citizens of Newark for the first city-wide showing of the new film "Burden of Truth", in the auditorium of Clinton Place Junior High School at 8 P.M. on Monday, February 16th.

The event is sponsored by the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations of Newark and the United Steelworkers, District 9. "Burden of Truth" is a feature length film depicting the life of a Negro family and the problems they face in climbing the ladder of economic and social success, first in the South and then in a Northern city. It shows the

subtle attitudes of white and Negro individuals as they are confronted with a number of crisis situations.

Commission Director, Dan Anthony will moderate the film forum discussion and lead the question and answer session following the presentation. A panel of experts in race relations will answer audience questions. The panel consists of the Honorable Madeline A. Williams, Essex County Assemblywoman; Herbert H. Tate, Chairman, New Jersey State Civil Rights Committee and Legal Advisor to the National

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Assemblywoman Madeline Williams of Essex and Mayor Carlin receive film, "Burden of Truth" from the United Steelworkers, District 9 for showing at Clinton Place Jr. High School on the evening of February 16th. Reading from left to right they are: George Binstead, United Steelworkers; Richard Joyner, United Steelworkers; Madeline Williams, Assemblywoman from Essex; Donald McNamara, United Steelworkers; Mayor Leo P. Carlin; John Proto, United Steelworkers.

### "Life In The New Newark"

During the month of January the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations distributed its newly published booklet, "Life in the New Newark", a 14-page story of the creation, program and goals of this agency. The publication was sent to some 1800 individuals and agencies in the local area and in cities across the nation. It was also mailed to an additional 1500 doctors, dentists and lawyers in Essex County, New Jersey.

Each recipient was asked to give his rating and reactions to the booklet on an enclosed rating form. To date a total of 316 of these forms have been returned. 96% of the respondents rated it excellent; 3% said good. A few offered specific suggestions and criticisms of the publication; others gave general comments and commendation on the work of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Requests from organizations for additional copies of "Life in the New Newark" totaled more than 8,000, with individual requests ranging from 2 to 1500.

During February and March 60,000 copies will be distributed through the schools of Newark to all parents who have school-age youngsters.

Banks, and savings and loan institutions, all major industries and business concerns, real estate agents and brokers, barber shops and beauty parlors will be mailed pamphlets.

By the end of March, most of the adult population of Newark and vicinity should have received "Life in the New Newark".

If you wish to secure a quantity of the booklets for distribution or display purposes, feel free to contact the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

#### Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council 3rd Anniversary Party

Sun., February 15, 1959, 2:30 P.M.

at

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Clinton Avenue at S. 17th Street, Newark

Open To The Public

## NEWARK CITIZENS SET TO OBSERVE BROTHERHOOD WEEK, FEB. 15-22

The period of February 15 to 22 has been proclaimed as Brotherhood Week across the nation. This annual observance in which millions of Americans participate is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, a civic organization engaged in an educational program for better human relations.

The purposes of Brotherhood Week are:

1. Rededication to the basic ideals of respect for individuals and peoples of all races and creeds.
2. Review of the practical steps which people can take to promote understanding and an acceptance of the Brotherhood of Man.
3. Enlistment of all people in year-round activities to insure the dignity of the individual and equality for all men.

Toward these aims many local organizations, institutions, agencies and clubs plan and sponsor special public programs promoting better intergroup relations.

Among the organizations which have planned programs during the month of February are: Hopewell Baptist Church, a program in observance of Race Relations Sunday; the Men's Club of Congregation Adas Israel and Mishnays on "Meeting the Challenge of Changing Neighborhoods"; ORT of South Orange and Maplewood on the "Psychology of Prejudice"; Columbus Homes Tenants' Council on "Democracy in Action" and the Newark Branch of the NAACP.

The following is a calendar of several observances for those who wish to participate in any or all of these programs.

FEBRUARY 16—8 P.M.: Film Forum: "Burden of Truth", sponsored by The United Steelworkers, District 9 and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations at Clinton Place Jr. High School, 37 Clinton Place, Newark, N. J.

FEBRUARY 17—8 P.M.: Film Forum: "All the Way Home", sponsored by the Clinton Place Jr. High School PTA, at the Jr. High School. Daniel S. Anthony, Director, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations will be the discussion leader.

FEBRUARY 19—8 P.M.: Discussion Program: "Psychology of Prejudice", sponsored by the Maple Avenue School PTA at the School. Dan Anthony will be the discussion leader.

FEBRUARY 20—10:30 A.M.: Assembly Program at South Side High School on "Improving Human Relations at Home—In the Nation and Abroad". A student panel discussion on youth views on current problems of intergroup relations and suggestions for improvement.

For further information or advice in arranging programs for your group throughout the year, contact the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 214, City Hall, MI 3-6300, Extension 281.

### Encampment For Citizenship

For the fourth consecutive year the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is one of the many human relations agencies cooperating with the Encampment for Citizenship in the recruitment and selection of qualified students.

The Encampment for Citizenship is a six week summer workshop of study and training to develop leadership qualities and an interest in community problems and civic action among young adults. This educational program is open to anyone 18 to 23 years old. The 1959 Encampments will be held in Riverdale, New York and San Francisco, Cal., June 28 to August 8.

The cost of this program is \$350.00 for tuition, room and board. Some scholarship assistance is available for qualified applicants.

Several of the local alumni of the Encampment for Citizenship have volunteered to address any group that wishes to learn more about their firsthand experiences as Encampers. This is a fine program opportunity for young adult and youth groups in this area.

For further information concerning this unique learning experience, contact the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 214, City Hall, Newark, MI, 3-6300, Ext. 281.

## WHERE SHALL WE LIVE?

### Report of the Commission on Race and Housing

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, believing that this Report is the most important study of housing and race relations ever conducted in the United States, will in its next two issues reproduce as much of the recommendations proposed in the Study as space in the Human Relations News will allow.

#### Fundamental American Principles

In the United States of America the basic guide to all judgments touching race, color, creed or national origin must be the fundamental principles of the American social order and form of government. These principles, which are both political and religious, require that all men should be free from arbitrary restraints, all should have equal rights, all should have equal opportunities. They imply that every individual should be judged, rewarded, or penalized according to his personal merits and achievements, and not according to the condition of his birth. Discrimination against people because of their race, ethnic descent, or religion violates these basic principles.

*Equality before the law.*—No principle of American government is more fundamental than that of equality of all citizens before the law. Properly construed, this principle should mean equal treatment of citizens in all their relations with government, including equal access to and equal rights of participation in all facilities and benefits provided by public authority. Government agencies must, of course, establish appropriate standards and criteria to guide their relations with the people. But there should be no place in any public program for differential treatment of people because of race, color, creed, or ethnic origin.

#### Conflicts of Rights

It is often asserted that to accord equal treatment to members of minority groups would violate certain rightful freedoms of others, such as freedom to associate with persons of one's choice, freedom to manage or dispose of property, or freedom to conduct one's business, including selection of clients or employees. Also sometimes asserted is a "right to choose one's neighbors."

It is apparent that potential conflicts of rights exist, and therefore some principle must be found for determining which rights are superior. Conflicts of rights are, of course, very common and if they were not, there would be less need for courts of law.

In all public affairs, as suggested above, the superiority of rights to equal treatment is clear on principle. No public officer should have any freedom to make racial, religious, or ethnic distinctions, and no private person has any rightful claim to a racially exclusive school, neighborhood, park, hospital, housing project, or other facility which has been provided by government.

In the sphere of private activity, on the other hand, though racial discrimination is morally reprehensible, there remains the question of whether the freedom of individuals to discriminate should be curtailed. Individual liberties are never absolute, but in a free society, abridgements of individual freedom must be justified by persuasive demonstration of a public good to be served. In the American tradition there have been three principal grounds for restricting individual liberty which are applicable to the problem of racial discrimination. These are:

1. Private activities affected with a public interest.

When private activities, because of their nature or scope, affect the welfare of large numbers of people, they cease to be purely private and may justifiably be subjected to control in the public interest. Public utilities are the prime example, but the principle is applicable widely. Employers have been required, in the public interest, to submit to limitations on their freedom to choose employees; proprietors of establishments serving the general public, such as hotels and restaurants, have been limited in their rights to select clients. In housing, the decisions of an individual property owner concerning the occupancy of a single dwelling may not be thought to involve a substantial public interest. But when private business affects the housing opportunities for thousands or millions of people, it must acknowledge a responsibility to the public.

2. Inequality of private power.

Respect for individual liberty as a philosophical principle rests upon an assumption of substantial equality of power among individuals, so that no one individual is in a position to do much damage to others. In American history when marked inequalities of private power have developed they have generated a demand for correction. In housing, the minority individual is confronted not merely with the prejudices of other persons but with the power of organized groups to determine where he shall or shall not live. To limit the power of such organizations would be in no way inconsistent with respect for individual liberty.

2. Restriction of liberty to enhance liberty.

It is a matter of common experience that individual freedom of action must be limited in various ways for the express purpose of preserving and extending freedom itself. Traffic control is an obvious example. If people were free to operate their vehicles on city streets as they saw fit, there would promptly be no freedom of vehicle movement for anyone. More broadly, freedom to live in great cities is dependent upon elaborate systems of regulation.

The application of this familiar principle to relations among people of differing racial or ethnic origins has not been better expressed than by Booker T. Washington's homely observation that "the only way to keep a man in a ditch is to get into the ditch with him." In many ways, as studies for this Commission have shown, the enforcement of limitations on the freedom of minority persons brings restrictions on the freedom and opportunities of others as well. Greater liberty for minorities does not necessarily imply less freedom for others, but more likely would bring an increase of individual freedom generally.

The asserted right "to choose one's neighbors" deserves examination. There are some circumstances in which neighbors actually are chosen, as in private clubs, some small cooperatives, certain

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## RACE AND HOUSING

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religious or fraternal colonies. Choice, to have any meaning, must imply a personal relationship among the chosen, analogous to that of personal friends or house guests. There is, however, no choosing of neighbors in ordinary residential areas where dwellings are offered on the housing market. A person seeking a place to live chooses a neighborhood, but other residents of the area do not normally choose him. A right to choose one's neighbors may be recognized in those circumstances where a process of choosing really occurs, but in the typical situation such a right can neither be affirmed nor denied; it is merely irrelevant.

### Segregation: The Basic Inequality

Compulsory residential segregation is the basic inequality that underlies or stimulates other forms of discrimination. The Supreme Court has declared enforced segregation in education "inherently unequal." In the housing field, segregation is even more incompatible with equality. Equal opportunity for housing, therefore, in principle and fact, is identical with freedom of all persons to compete in the general housing market in accordance with their individual preferences and ability to pay.

### Prejudice versus Discrimination

Measures for equal opportunity should aim at moderating prejudices as well as reducing discrimination, but the latter should be the focus of direct attention. It is misleading to conceive of discrimination merely as a result and prejudice solely as a cause. The two are actually related in the form of a vicious circle, and each is both cause and effect. Prejudice leads to discrimination, but discrimination generates and sustains prejudice, leading to further discrimination.

Discrimination, as overt behavior, can be brought under direct restraints. Prejudices, being subjective feelings, cannot

be touched directly but are affected by the environmental influences upon individuals. A lessening of discrimination, by changing the conditions under which race attitudes are formed, may lead to a lessening of prejudice. In housing, moreover, the most important forms of discrimination are not those directly connected with the prejudices of people, but are represented in the practices of governments and the housing industry.

### Education versus Action

Education and action should be regarded not as alternatives but as complementary methods of working for racial equality of opportunity. A concrete change in the situation involving minority groups may be a highly effective form of education. Efforts to induce some specific change, by providing a focus and stimulus for public discussion, may also be a fruitful means of educating a community to the evils of race discrimination. If public consent to a new status for minority groups is to be obtained, obviously the public must be informed and educated concerning the issues and alternatives involved. However, as every teacher knows, precept without example is ineffective teaching. Education merely in the form of bombarding the public with words, without demonstration or example, is unlikely to achieve its purpose.

## Burden Of Truth

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Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Thomas Murray, United Steelworkers and Joel Jacobson, Executive Vice President, New Jersey State CIO Council.

Mayor Carlin will give the welcoming address followed by Francis Shane, Secretary of the Civil Rights Committee of the Steelworkers, who will introduce the film which was produced by the United Steelworkers of America.

This premiere performance is FREE and open to the public at large.

## SELECTED READING

Solih, N. C. *Barriers: patterns of discrimination against Jews*. Friendly House Publishers. "Prepared by the Anti-Defamation League this report explores social, resort, employment, education, and housing discrimination."

Berry, Brewster. *Race and ethnic relations*. 1958. Houghton Mifflin. "Second edition of volume in which author attempts to describe and analyze the phenomena which arise when groups of people who differ racially and culturally come into contact with one another."

Breyfogel, William. *Mafia frus: the story of the Underground Railroad*. Lippincott. "The flight of the Negro from slavery."

King, Martin Luther, Jr. *Strides toward freedom*. 1958. Harper. "The Montgomery story of non-violent resistance to segregation."

Rand, Christopher. *Puerto Ricans*. 1958. Oxford Press. "Account of these newcomers and how they differ from any other group of immigrants the city of New York has known."

Schickel, Richard. *Catholic, Protestant, Jew: the conflicts that divide us*. Look Magazine. September 20, 1958.

"Each religious group has scores of old wounds that continue to cause tension and bitterness." Newman, Edwin S. *Law of civil rights and civil liberties*. Oceana Publications. 1957.

"Brings up-to-date the legal aspects of civil rights and liberties."

Van Til. *Prejudices—how do people get that way?* Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. 315 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. 1958.

Explanation of how people become prejudiced and how prejudice can be prevented.

Pisani, Lawrence Frank. *The Italian in America*. Exposition-University Press. 1957.

"A social study and history."

## New Commissioners

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ans' of Foreign Wars, he is married and has a son.

MILTON RIEGEL was born and educated in the City of Newark. He has been president of the McClelland Service Association; the Amateur Athletic Association of Newark, the East-Sea Separates and presently serves on the Board of Directors of the South Ward Boys Club and the Building Committee of St. James Hospital. He is active in the Y. M. C. A. and B'nai B'rith.

ANCEL TORRES is an active member of the Memorial Presbyterian Church at South Orange Avenue and South Seventh Street. Employed as a civil engineer for Ammann and Whitney, consulting engineers, he is active in Cub Scout work, is married and has a two-year old daughter.

## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

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